

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3076

A bill to establish an undergraduate grant program of the Department of State to assist students of limited financial means from the United States to pursue studies abroad.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 20, 2000

Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. FEINGOLD) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

A bill to establish an undergraduate grant program of the Department of State to assist students of limited financial means from the United States to pursue studies abroad.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “International Academic
5 Opportunity Act of 2000”.

6 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.**

7 It is the purpose of this Act to establish an under-
8 graduate grant program for students of limited financial

1 means from the United States to enable such students to
 2 study abroad. Such foreign study is intended to broaden
 3 the outlook and better prepare such students of dem-
 4 onstrated financial need to assume significant roles in the
 5 increasingly global economy.

6 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM FOR FOR-**
 7 **EIGN STUDY BY AMERICAN COLLEGE STU-**
 8 **DENTS OF LIMITED FINANCIAL MEANS.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to the availability of
 10 appropriations and under the authorities of the Mutual
 11 Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, the Sec-
 12 retary of State shall establish and carry out a program
 13 in each fiscal year to award grants of up to \$5,000, to
 14 individuals who meet the requirements of subsection (b),
 15 toward the cost of up to one academic year of under-
 16 graduate study abroad. Grants under this Act shall be
 17 known as the “Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholar-
 18 ships”.

19 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—An individual referred to in sub-
 20 section (a) is an individual who—

21 (1) is a student in good standing at an institu-
 22 tion of higher education in the United States (as de-
 23 fined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act
 24 of 1965);

1 (2) has been accepted for up to one academic
2 year of study—

3 (A) at an institution of higher education
4 outside the United States (as defined by section
5 102(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965);
6 or

7 (B) on a program of study abroad ap-
8 proved for credit by the student's home institu-
9 tion;

10 (3) is receiving any need-based student assist-
11 ance under title IV of the Higher Education Act of
12 1965; and

13 (4) is a citizen or national of the United States.

14 (c) APPLICATION AND SELECTION.—

15 (1) Grant application and selection shall be car-
16 ried out through accredited institutions of higher
17 education in the United States or a combination of
18 such institutions under such procedures as are es-
19 tablished by the Secretary of State.

20 (2) In considering applications for grants under
21 this section—

22 (A) consideration of financial need shall in-
23 clude the increased costs of study abroad; and

24 (B) priority consideration shall be given to
25 applicants who are receiving Federal Pell

1 Grants under title IV of the Higher Education
2 Act of 1965.

3 **SEC. 4. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

4 The Secretary of State shall report annually to the
5 Congress concerning the grant program established under
6 this Act. Each such report shall include the following in-
7 formation for the preceding year:

8 (1) The number of participants.

9 (2) The institutions of higher education in the
10 United States that participants attended.

11 (3) The institutions of higher education outside
12 the United States participants attended during their
13 year of study abroad.

14 (4) The areas of study of participants.

15 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16 There are authorized to be appropriated \$1,500,000
17 for each fiscal year to carry out this Act.

18 **SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

19 This Act shall take effect October 1, 2000.

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